

Conversion of a Hindu Pundit.

THIS occurred in Gondah, where Rev. S. Knowles is missionary. This *pundit*, a term which signifies scholar, or learned man, was also a priest of the Hindu religion. His conversion took place on his death-bed, though he had previously given much attention to Christianity. An account of the matter, similar to that presented here, appeared in the "Kankab-i-Hind," one of the papers published by our Mission, September 29, 1882.

The pundit was known in Gondah for his learning and faithful priestly offices. He was in the constant habit of attending the bazaar preaching and arguing, though in a kindly way, with our preachers. One day news was brought to the native preacher, Rev. Charles Luke, that the pundit lay in a dying state. Taking two brethren with him, Mr. Luke went to see him. As he stood by the bedside of the Hindu priest the following conversation took place:

"Well, pundit," said the preacher, "what is the state of your soul?" He answered as well as his weakness would allow, "My soul is in a hopeless state." "How, then," he was again asked, "if your soul is in such a hopeless state are you to obtain rest?" The dying scholar replied, "I cannot tell." Then Mr. Luke explained to him, as he had often done

before, indeed, but now with fresh opportunity and hope, the nature and work of Christ, and the way of his great salvation: how that by simply believing on him now rest would come to his poor troubled heart.

The pundit asked, with great eagerness, "Is it really true that Jesus Christ can give rest and peace to my burdened soul?" The answer was, "If you rest with a pure faith on Christ now, just as you are, Christ saves you."

The pundit then put up his hands, saying, "Yes, I do believe with a pure faith on Christ." Then he began anxiously to ask more questions about Christ. Wishing to test the strength of the pundit's newly-declared faith, Mr. Luke said: "If you would drink a little broth, (this being forbidden by his old religion,) it would do your body good, and be an open confession that you had rejected your former false religion." After thinking a little, the pundit said, "I have received the Lord Jesus Christ, and any thing which you think best for me I will do." Thereupon, according to the pundit's wish, the brethren cooked some broth and gave it to him to drink. He took the vessel in his hands, and exclaimed, "I drink this for the benefit of my body: this body, whether it be a Hindu's or a Mussulman's, is perishing; but I drink this in the name of Jesus Christ." After this the brethren sang a hymn and prayed with the dying man. They continued to visit him, finding new evidences of faith and love in his soul until it was freed from its mortal burden and departed to the paradise of God.